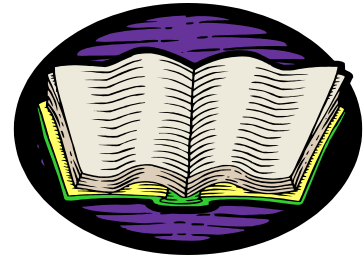


# West Side Stories

*A Publication for Neighborhood Watch Leaders in the  
Central and Dobson Patrol Districts*



Mesa Police  
Department  
Community Relations

## Avoid Hotel/Motel Hassles

Summer vacation season is here! In turn, the Better Business Bureau is issuing tips to help consumers select satisfactory hotel/motel accommodations for their next trip.

There are usually plenty of quality hotels and motels to serve any vacation location, but you may not find one that meets your particular needs if you make your purchasing decision based solely on the room rate.

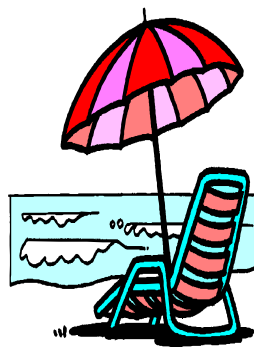
In addition to contacting the Better Business Bureau to request a reliability report, find out the following before making a lodging decision:

- Ask if the hotel is located near the airport, in town or on the beach, or near historical sights, if these location factors are important to you or family members.
- Ask what types of rooms are available, and be explicit if you would like a smoking or non-smoking room, or have other preferences. An ocean view room is not the same as an oceanfront room, for instance.
- Ask about special features that might be of interest to you, such as an on-site restaurant, pool, or recreation facility.
- Ask whether the hotel offers any special or promotional rates, such as advance purchase discounts, weekend specials, rates that include breakfast, or corporate rates.

- Know what taxes will be incurred during your hotel stay. These might include a room occupancy tax, state tax, departure tax, and/or other surcharges.

- Obtain a copy of the hotel's refund and cancellation policy in writing before committing to a room guarantee, and know if there are penalties assessed for canceling reservations.

- Ask what is needed to guarantee your reservation—i.e. a credit card number and/or arrival by a specific time? If the hotel issues a confirmation number, obtain a copy in writing.



- Ask about the check-in and checkout times.
- If you plan to combine work and play during

your vacation, you might want to ask about in-room fax and computer capabilities.

Careful planning ahead of time regarding these and other issues will help you to avoid vacation hassles. Fully understand what you are signing for and paying for prior to making a reservation decision.

*BBB Central/Northern AZ, 2000*



**August 1 is the last day to make any changes in block captains, co-captains, or assistant captains until AFTER the GAIN Kickoff.**

**Volume 1, Issue 1  
Summer 2001**

### Better Business Bureau

4428 N. 12th Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

(602) 264-1721

\* Questions? Contact the  
BBB for more information  
and additional traveling tips!

### Inside this issue:

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# Holly's Happenings

Hello from your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator! Whether you're packing bags in preparation for a quick weekend getaway, or lounging around by the backyard pool, I hope you've found some safe ways to beat the heat this summer.

If you haven't had the chance to head out of town quite yet, take a look at the Hotel/Motel traveling tips offered from the Better Business Bureau on page 1. Still trying to squeeze yourself into that new swimsuit? (I know I am!) Be certain to check out the page 4 article on the latest weight loss scams.

Welcome to the first issue of *West Side Stories*, a quarterly newsletter designed for neighborhood watch leaders in the Dobson and Central Patrol Districts. For those of you who may not know me, my name is Holly Hosac. I'm a native Arizonian who moved to Mesa in 1987. I attended Powell Jr. High and graduated from Westwood in 1991. I spent one year at MCC, then transferred to ASU, where I graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in journalism.

I spent eight years working part-time in banking and the past three years working as a reporter and subsequently, in public relations.

In January 2001, I was hired on by the City of Mesa as a Crime Prevention Spe-

cialist with the Community Relations Division of the Mesa Police Department. This position has been both exciting and challenging! In addition to having the opportunity to work with fantastic block watch groups in West Mesa, I recently became certified as a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Practitioner. I would like to thank all of my captains for the support you have already given to me. I think the neighborhood watch groups in my districts are among the best in Mesa!

I hope you'll find that the crime prevention articles in this newsletter are timely and useful. Please let me know by sending in the survey on page 6. I believe that the more relevant the information in this newsletter is to you, the more proactive your neighborhood watch will be. In addition, I plan to feature a schedule of events and a list of new and reactivated watch groups in every newsletter.

Finally, I want *West Side Stories* to offer you a chance to let others know what is happening in your neighborhood. Send in your stories and anecdotes from meetings and events. Share what has worked, as well as what hasn't worked in your area. Let's exchange suggestions and ideas with each other and make the Dobson and Central Districts 100% Neighborhood Watch communities!



## Important Phone Numbers

Holly Hosac .....	644-2033
Central/Dobson Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	
Community Relations Unit ..	644-2300
Community Relations FAX ..	644-2800
Police Non-Emergency .....	644-2211
Silent Witness .....	1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline .....	(602) 440-5081
Graffiti Hotline .....	644-3083
Gang Hotline .....	644-4264
Central Substation .....	644-2229
Dobson Substation .....	644-2614
Anonymous Reporting .....	644-2000
Graffiti Paintout .....	644-3083
Traffic Unit (Motors) .....	644-3533



## Neighborhood Watch Groups

(as of July 2, 2001)

<b>Dobson</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>122</b>

## 2001 New and Reactivated Neighborhood Watch Areas

### Central District

- 1300—1500 W. 1st Street
- 900 E. 2nd St./300 E. Fraser Dr.
- 1100 W. 2nd St.
- 1600—1700 W. Auburn
- 400—500 W. Fairway Circle Hillview/ Sunset Circle
- 1400—1500 N. Bel Air
- 222 W. Brown
- 600 E. Draper
- 2200 N. Dresden/2200 N. July

- 1600 N. Fraser Dr.
- 1300 W. Garden Cir.
- 333 E. Halifax St.
- 1100 E. Jensen St.
- 500 N. Orange
- 600 N. Orange
- 1700 N. Parsell Circle
- 500 N. Pima
- 1600 N Temple
- 1100 N. Weld Circle

- 1200 N. Westwood
- 1100 N. Revere/1100 N. Cherry
- 1000 N. Cherry

### Dobson District

- 1000 E. Dolphin
- 1600 W. Meseto Cir.
- 1600—1700 W. Monte
- 1600 W. Milagro
- 900 E Millett Ave.
- 600 E. Franklin

# Losing Weight? Beware of Potential Scams

Summer is generally the time of year when many people decide to shed a few pounds. If you are planning to become a waist watcher, don't fall victim to diet, weight loss or nutritional supplement scams:

- Use caution with pills and capsules that promise to "burn," "block," "flush," or otherwise eliminate fat from your system. Even the best diet pill or weight loss product is, at best, only a temporary or partial measure.
- Be wary of claims that promise immediate, effortless and/or "guaranteed" weight loss. Also watch for buzzwords like "breakthrough," "secret," "exclusive," or "miraculous" in advertisements. They are not scientific words and often appear in misleading promotions for fraudulent products.
- Be cautious of vaguely worded testimonials that cannot be verified. Testimonials should not serve as a substitute for scientific proof of a product's effectiveness.
- Before committing to a weight



loss product or program, check with your physician, a qualified nutritionist, and/or a registered dietitian.

- Also check with the Better Business Bureau or the Food & Drug Administration if you have questions about an advertised product or weight loss promotion.
- Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

*Information provided by the Better Business Bureau of Central/Northern Arizona.*

## Calendar of Events

August 24

Final day to RSVP for G.A.I.N. Kick Off

(Watch your mail for more details.)

September 13

G.A.I.N. Kick Off

October 13  
Neighborhood  
Conference

October 20  
G.A.I.N.



December 13

Block Captain Open House @  
Police Department Headquarters  
(Stop by to restock your supplies.)

*"The road to a friend's  
house is never long."  
- Danish proverb*

## Tasty Touchdown Taco Dip

Add a bit of spice to your next Neighborhood Watch event! This three-layer dip is baked up hot, then topped with fresh tomatoes, black olives, green onions and cilantro. Your neighbors will be eager to dive into this tasty dip, which is served with tortilla chips.

- 1 can (16 ounces) refried beans
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning mix
- 2 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 2 ounces Colby Jack cheese, shredded (1/2 cup)
- 1/2 cup pitted ripe olives, sliced
- 1 medium tomato, seeded and diced
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions with tops
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro or parsley, thinly sliced (Yields 16-20 servings)

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Spread refried beans over bottom of baking dish, set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, sour cream and seasoning. Finely chop garlic, add to bowl and mix well.
2. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly over beans. Grate cheese over top. Bake 15-18 minutes or until hot.
3. Slice olive and dice tomato. Thinly slice onions and cilantro. Sprinkle olives tomato, onions and cilantro over dip. Garnish with additional sour cream, if desired. Serve with tortilla chips.

# Mesa's K-9 Unit Taking a Bite Out of Crime

The Mesa Police Canine Unit has come a long way since its inception, and in turn, has strived to maintain the safety of the public and other police officers.

The unit was formed in January 1989. At that time, there were three Police Service Dog Handlers, each with a police dog. Each dog was trained to locate people and detect narcotics.

Today, there are seven Police Service Dogs working within the Mesa Police Department. Each dog is trained to find persons. In addition, four of the dogs are trained narcotic detection dogs and one dog, Duke, is trained as a bomb detection dog.

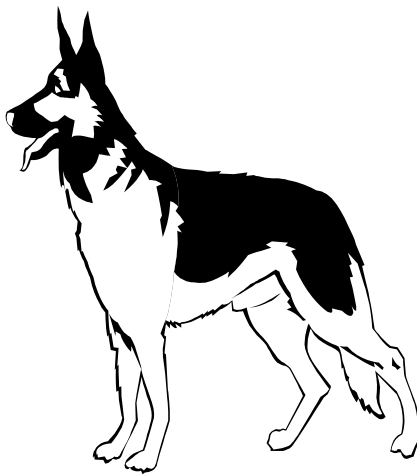
A dog's keen sense of smell allows hiding suspects to be located easier, safer and usually much quicker than officers searching by themselves. The dogs are also used to search open areas, buildings and commercial yards. The psychological effect of having a dog present in a tense situation proves beneficial to everyone involved. Countless times, the dogs' presence has calmed violent situations without the use of physical force.

Each year, hundreds of pounds of ille-

gal drugs are taken off the streets of Mesa with the aid of the narcotic dogs. Our bomb detection dog is a great asset to the citizens of Mesa. Numerous bomb searches are conducted at Mesa schools and businesses after threats are received.

To date, two bombs have been discovered with the aid of our bomb dog.

The Mesa Police Department's current K-9 line up includes Blacky, Hagan, Bruno, Dell, Duke, Ully and Hunter.



Check out the K-9 Unit on the web:

[www.ci.mesa.az.us/police](http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/police)

## \*\*\*\*\* Quiz: K-9 Know-How \*\*\*\*\*

Were you paying attention to the K-9 article? Take this simple three question quiz to find out! The first person to call or email the correct answers to [holly\\_hosac@ci.mesa.az.us](mailto:holly_hosac@ci.mesa.az.us), wins an insulated GAIN Mug! Good luck!

1. The current Mesa Police Canine Unit was formed:
  - a) January 1989
  - b) February 14, 1912
  - c) yesterday
2. How many bombs have been discovered with the aid of Mesa's bomb dog, Duke?
  - a) seven
  - b) two
  - c) twelve
3. If an officer and his K-9 partner are in an open field and yell for you to "stop or I'll send the dog," you should respond the following way:
  - a) Turn and taunt the K-9, they like that.
  - b) Run because you are much faster than the dog.
  - c) Fall to the ground, don't move, and pray that the dog obeys the handler's commands.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Gang Prevention Serves as Focus of First Captains' Meeting

Current gang trends in Mesa, particularly in areas west of Stapley Road, served as the primary topic of discussion during this year's first Central/Dobson District Block Captain Meeting, held April 4 at the Dobson Library.

After a brief introduction and welcome, Wava Hightower and Linda Phar, volunteers for the Gang Unit, began the meeting by presenting an overview of "Gangs in Mesa."

In addition to discussing current gang trends, the presentation gave those in attendance a look at how gangs are documented and how to identify "tagging" versus gang graffiti.

Hightower and Phar have volunteered for the Gang Unit for more than seven years. Their presentation was an excellent

overview of gangs in our community.

Among those in attendance were the Central and Dobson CAT Officers, Bike Officers, Crime Prevention Unit Volunteer Dave Perkins and Denise Traves, Crime Prevention Unit Supervisor.

Other topics discussed included the qualifications and documentation needed for Neighborhood Watch (see page 5), and the Opportunity Zone project in Central District.

The meeting, attended by 38 captains, concluded with a Q&A session, refreshments and two door prize drawings: one model MPD car and one blue limited edition "Freddy" bear with the MPD logo. Be certain to mark your calendar for our next captains' meeting, August 23.



# Neighborhood Watch Facts

## Program Requirements

*Signs are subject to removal if all requirements are not met.*

- ☆ **50%** of the designated neighborhood watch area must participate at each event
- ☆ At least **1 Block Captain** is needed
- ☆ **2 meetings/events** per calendar year

## Administrative Requirements

- ☆ Required documentation will be signatures on attendance sheets. Effective May 1, 2001, letters will not be accepted as documentation.
- ☆ Attendance sheets must be sent in **within 4 weeks** after the meeting. Send attendance sheets to Community Relations Division, 130 N. Robson, Mesa, AZ 85201, or Fax 480-644-2800. Attendance sheets and envelopes can be provided by calling 480-644-2300.
- ☆ Neighborhood Coordinator requires at least **3 weeks** notice to schedule a speaker or to request an officer.
- ☆ At least **2 weeks** notice is needed if over 50 brochures are needed for any event.

## Neighborhood Watch Coordinators

Central /Dobson Districts--	Holly Hosac	480-644-2033
Falcon District --	Jerry Quarles	480-644-2539
Superstition District --	Terri Teten	480-644-3692



**CITY OF  
MESA**

*Great People, Quality Service!*

**Mesa Police Department  
Community Relations Unit**  
130 North Robson Street  
Mesa, Arizona 85201-6697  
E-mail: holly\_hosac@ci.mesa.az.us

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MESA, ARIZONA  
PERMIT NO. 160

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## *West Side Stories Survey*

What are your thoughts of *West Side Stories*? I want to hear from my block captains! Remember, I write this newsletter specifically for YOU! Return the survey by mail, fax or email by September 1 and your name will be entered into a drawing to win a fabulous secret surprise!

*West Side Stories* was:

- ☐ Interesting and useful
- ☐ OK, but it could use a few changes
- ☐ Recycled and used as bedding inside my hamster's cage

In terms of length, I thought *West Side Stories* was:

- ☐ Too much
- ☐ Seriously lacking
- ☐ Just right

Would you like to see recipes published in upcoming issues of *West Side Stories*?

- ☐ Yes, I love to cook!
- ☐ Yes, as long as someone else prepares the dishes for me.
- ☐ No, I hate to cook and/or I really don't care!

I would like to learn more about other MPD Units in upcoming issues of *West Side Stories*.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe so

Comments:

Name

Address

Phone